

1. A carton for accommodating a plurality of containers, the carton being tubular in structure and comprising top and base opposed panels, the top panel including inner and outer overlapping panel portions, and a retaining structure depending from the inner panel portion of the top panel, the top-retaining structure comprising an engagement panel with an engaging edge to engage a container, wherein the retaining structure is provided with at least one opening each for receiving part of a container, the engaging edge being provided by an edge of the at least one opening.
2. The carton according to claim 1 wherein the base panel has apertures each defined for receiving a container, and the base panel is provided with at least one foldable retaining tab hingedly connected thereto for operatively engaging part of a container.
3. The carton according to claim 2 wherein the engaging edge is arranged to press the at least one retaining tab against a container to retain the at least one retaining tab in engagement with a container.
4. The carton according to claim 2 wherein each of the apertures is defined by a pair of the retaining tabs struck from the base panel, the retaining tabs of each pair being disposed in substantially opposed positions.
5. The carton according to claim 2 wherein the at least one retaining tab has a notch for receiving the engaging edge of the engagement panel to allow the engaging edge to reach a radially protruding part of a container.
6. The carton according to claim 1 wherein the engagement panel has an engaging tab projecting into the each opening and wherein the engaging tab comprises the engaging edge.

7. The carton according to claim 1 wherein the engaging edge is spaced from the top panel.
8. The carton according to claim 1 wherein the engagement panel is disposed
5 between a container and an adjacent container to minimize relative movement between the containers.
9. The carton as claimed in claim 1 wherein the retaining structure further comprises a connector panel for hingedly interconnecting the engagement panel and the inner panel
10 portion of the top panel.
10. A package comprising a carton and a necked article contained in the carton, the carton comprising a top panel including inner and outer overlapping panel portions, and a retaining structure depending from the inner panel portion to engage an underside of a
15 radially protruding part of the necked article, the retaining structure has an opening for receiving a portion of the radially protruding part of the article, and a lower edge of the opening comprises an engaging edge for engaging the underside of the radially protruding part.
- 20 11. The package as claimed in claim 10 wherein the retaining structure includes a connector panel hingedly connected to and extending downwardly from a free edge of the inner panel portion and an engagement panel hingedly connected to a lower edge of the connector panel, and the opening is formed at least in part in the connector panel.
- 25 12. The package as claimed in claim 11 wherein the engagement panel has an engaging tab projecting into the opening, and wherein the engaging tab comprises the engaging edge.
13. A package comprising a top-gripping carton and a plurality of articles arranged in

at least two rows and engaged by the carton, the carton comprising a top panel including a pair of inner and outer lap panel portions, and a retaining structure depending from the inner panel portion, wherein the retaining structure comprises a spacer strip disposed between two adjacent ones of the rows of the articles, the strip having one side edge for engagement with the articles in one of the adjacent rows and the other side edge for engagement with the articles in the other of the adjacent rows.

14. The package as claimed in claim 13 wherein the retaining structure further comprises a connector panel extending downwardly from a free edge of the inner lap panel portion, the connector panel being hingedly connected at a lower edge thereof to the one side edge of the spacer strip.

15. A unitary blank for forming a carton, comprising a plurality of panels for forming a tubular structure including a first panel having a plurality of apertures each defined in part by a foldable retaining tab hingedly connected to the first panel to be folded out of a general plane of the first panel, a second panel spaced from the first panel by an intermediate panel, and a retention structure connected to the second panel, the retention structure having an opening for receiving at least a portion of a radially protruding part of an article in a set up condition, and a lower edge of the opening comprises an engaging edge for engaging an underside of the radially protruding part.